

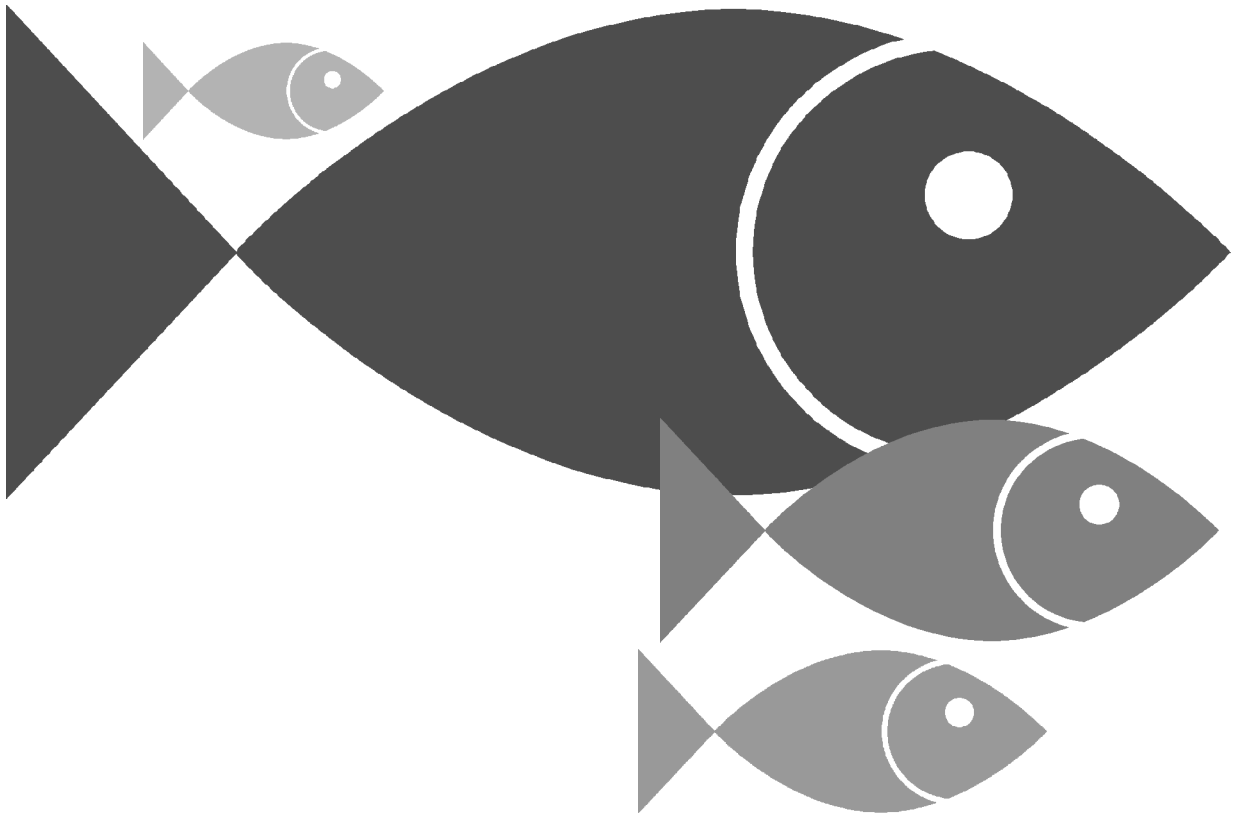


United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Animal and  
Plant Health  
Inspection  
Service

Program Aid 1583

# Exporting U.S. Aquaculture Products



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Issued February 1997  
Slightly revised February 2000

Seventeen years ago, with a stroke of the legislative pen, the U.S. Congress passed the National Aquaculture Act of 1980. This Act designated the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) as the lead Federal agency with respect to the coordination and dissemination of national aquaculture information by designating the Secretary of Agriculture as permanent chair of the coordinating group for American aquaculture. Since that time, the aquaculture industries have grown almost 400 percent and now make up the fastest growing segment of U.S. agriculture.

In today's fast-paced international economy, USDA has become the doorway through which America's aquaculture farmers can access the world. USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) maintains a principal role in the facilitation of international trade. As countries grow closer together through agreements such as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), APHIS Veterinary Services (VS) experts work closely with American aquaculture farmers to ensure that they understand the new trade rules and that their products meet foreign trade requirements.

The products of American aquatic farming do not just jump from the pond onto the world's dinner table. The process begins when farmers or exporters target a specific foreign market. Once the destination country is identified, farmers or exporters must make sure their products meet its animal health requirements pertaining to aquaculture. APHIS VS personnel at the National Center for Import/Export, in Riverdale, MD, can usually help farmers and exporters obtain importing countries' requirements. But in some cases, farmers and exporters may have to contact the importing country directly.

To help the aquaculture industries meet the requirements of foreign markets, APHIS VS maintains 43 Area offices. One of these serves the New England States; 1 serves Ohio and West Virginia; 1 serves Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia; 1 serves Alaska and Washington; 1 serves Puerto Rico; and each of the remaining States has its own. An Area Veterinarian-in-Charge (AVIC) oversees the activities of each of these 43 offices. See the end of this brochure for a list of addresses and phone numbers for the Area offices.

After an aquaculture farmer makes initial contact with the Area office and receives a copy of the importing country's requirements, an APHIS veterinarian will conduct a site visit to evaluate that farmer's facility. These visits are usually scheduled before diagnostic sampling takes place.

The APHIS veterinarian will base the site evaluation on the importing country's animal health requirements. Importing countries often require that:

- The facility be overseen by an APHIS-accredited veterinarian;
- The facility's water source be clean and meet country-specific conditions;
- Products be properly identified; and
- The diagnostic sampling protocol used to test aquatic species meet general minimum standards based on the diagnostic manual of the Office of International Epizootics.

The next step in the certification process is the gathering of required diagnostic samples. After taking the samples, the accredited veterinarian completes the laboratory submission document, identifies the sample's lot number, and sends it and the samples to an APHIS-approved laboratory. The laboratory transmits the test results directly to the Area office and sends a copy back to the accredited veterinarian. Upon receipt of the test results, the accredited veterinarian fills out the animal health certificate.

The certificate clearly identifies the product being shipped, the farm location, and the lot identity. This information must correspond to the identification on the test samples, and the valid date on the certificate must specify the period that shipments may be made from a specific lot. The health certificate is valid for one country only, and the accredited veterinarian must ensure that the importing country is the only one listed on the certificate. After completing the certificate, the accredited veterinarian forwards it to the AVIC at the appropriate Area office.

Once the lab report and the health certificate arrive, the AVIC reviews the lab report to make sure that the stock complies with the reporting country's requirements and confirms that the veterinarian who signed the certificate and oversaw the operations of the producer's facility is accredited. When the AVIC receives all of the information and everything is correct, the health certificate is endorsed and given to the farmer or exporter. The AVIC also forwards a copy to APHIS VS headquarters in Riverdale, MD.

It is very important that the accredited veterinarian work through the local Area office of the AVIC. Health certificates that are sent directly to APHIS VS headquarters without going through the local AVIC will not receive an endorsement and therefore will not be valid.

Once the flow of trade begins, a farmer must maintain a log of all certificates and shipments exported. The records are to include the animal health certificate number, destination country, species, and the number of animals or live eggs shipped. Each month, either the farmer or the accredited veterinarian serving the farmer must send a copy of this record to the Area Office.

USDA, APHIS, and APHIS' AVIC's all work to support the aquaculture industries. By working together with these USDA experts, accredited veterinarians, and APHIS-approved labs, farmers and exporters can introduce their products to world markets and compete on an international scale.

## For More Information

### Office of the National Aquaculture Coordinator

Aquaculture farmers and exporters with additional questions may contact

National Aquaculture Coordinator  
USDA, APHIS, VS,  
Planning, Certification, and Monitoring Staff  
4700 River Road, Unit 46  
Riverdale, MD 20737-1231  
Telephone: (301) 734-7679

The following is a list of the 43 APHIS AVIC offices, by VS region.

### Offices of APHIS Area Veterinarians-in-Charge, by VS Region

#### Northern Region

##### *Illinois*

2815 Old Jacksonville Rd., Suite 104  
Springfield, IL 62704  
(217) 241-6689 (voice), 241-6695 (fax)

##### *Indiana*

6960 Corporate Drive  
Indianapolis, IN 46278-1928  
(317) 290-3300 (voice), 290-3311 (fax)

##### *Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia*

2568-A Riva Road, Suite 207  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
(410) 571-0002 (voice), 261-8113 (fax)

*Michigan*

3001 Coolidge Road, Suite 125  
East Lansing, MI 48823  
(517) 324-5290 (voice), 324-5289 (fax)

*Minnesota*

251 Starkey Street  
Bolander Building, Suite 229  
St. Paul, MN 55107  
(651) 290-3691 (voice), 228-0654 (fax)

*New England (including Connecticut, Maine,  
Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island,  
and Vermont)*

Sutton Square Plaza, Suite 20  
160 Worcester-Providence Road  
Sutton, MA 01590-9998  
(508) 865-1421 (voice), 865-9317 (fax)

*New Jersey*

Mercer Corporate Park  
320 Corporate Boulevard  
Robbinsville, NJ 08691-1598  
(609) 259-8387 (voice), 259-2477 (fax)

*New York*

One Winners Circle, Suite 100  
Albany, NY 12205  
(518) 453-0187 (voice), 453-0213 (fax)

*Ohio and West Virginia*

12927 Stonecreek Drive  
Pickerington, OH 43147  
(614) 469-5602 (voice), 866-1086 (fax)

*Pennsylvania*

2301 N. Cameron Street, Rm. 412  
Harrisburg, PA 17110  
(717) 782-3442 (voice), 782-4098 (fax)

*Virginia*

Washington Building, 6th Floor  
1100 Bank Street  
Richmond, VA 23219  
(804) 771-2774 (voice), 771-2030 (fax)

*Wisconsin*

14 Ellis Potter Court, Suite 30  
Madison, WI 53711-2478  
(608) 270-4000 (voice), 270-4001 (fax)

**Southeastern Region**

*Alabama*

P.O. Box 70429  
Montgomery, AL 36107  
(334) 223-7141 (voice), 223-7352 (fax)

*Florida*

207 N.W. 23d Avenue  
Gainesville, FL 32609  
(352) 333-3120 (voice), 333-6849 (fax)

*Georgia*

1498 Klondike Road, Suite 200  
Conyers, GA 30094  
(770) 922-7860 (voice), 483-9000 (fax)

*Kentucky*

643 Comanche Trail  
Frankfort, KY 40602  
(502) 227-9651 (voice), 223-7121 (fax)

*Mississippi*

345 Keyway Street  
Jackson, MS 39208  
(601) 965-4307 (voice), 965-5535 (fax)

*North Carolina*

Partners Building, Bldg. 1  
1017 Main Campus Drive, Suite 2500  
Raleigh, NC 27606-5202  
(919) 513-4170 (voice), 513-4446 (fax)

*Puerto Rico*

654 Munoz Rivera Avenue  
Hato Rey, PR 00918  
(787) 766-6050 (voice), 766-6122 (fax)

*South Carolina*

9600 Two Notch Road, Suite 10  
Columbia, SC 29223  
(803) 788-1919 (voice), 788-2102 (fax)

*Tennessee*

Jennings Building  
440 Hogan Road  
Nashville, TN 37220  
(615) 781-5310 (voice), 781-5309 (fax)

**Central Region**

*Arkansas*

1200 Cherry Brook Drive, Suite 300  
Little Rock, AR 72211  
(501) 224-9515 (voice), 225-5823 (fax)

*Iowa*

Federal Building, Room 891  
210 Walnut Street  
Des Moines, IA 50309  
(515) 284-4140 (voice), 284-4156 (fax)

*Kansas*

1947 N.W. Topeka Blvd., Suite F  
Topeka, KS 66608  
(785) 235-2365 (voice), 235-1464 (fax)

*Louisiana*

Room 1140  
5825 Florida Blvd.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70806  
(225) 389-0436 (voice), 389-0524 (fax)

*Missouri*

1442 Aaron Court  
Jefferson City, MO 65110-4418  
(573) 636-3116 (voice), 636-4384 (fax)

*Nebraska*

5940 S. 58th Street  
Lincoln, NE 68516  
(402) 434–2300 (voice), 434–2330 (fax)

*North Dakota*

P.O. Box 639  
Bismarck, ND 58502  
(701) 250–4210 (voice), 250–4471 (fax)

*Oklahoma*

4020 N. Lincoln Blvd., Suite 101  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105  
(405) 427–9413 (voice), 427–9451 (fax)

*South Dakota*

314 S. Henry, Suite 100  
Pierre, SD 57501  
(605) 224–6186 (voice), 224–8451 (fax)

*Texas*

Thornberry Bldg., Room 220  
903 San Jacinto Blvd.  
Austin, TX 78701  
(512) 916–5551 (voice), 916–5197 (fax)

**Western Region**

*Arizona*

4625 S. Wendler Drive, Suite 206  
Tempe, AZ 85282  
(602) 379–3391 (voice), 379–3413 (fax)

*California and Nevada*

9580 Micron Avenue, Suite E  
Sacramento, CA 95827  
(916) 857–6170 (voice), 857–6196 (fax)

*Colorado*

755 Parfet Street, Suite 136  
Lakewood, CO 80215  
(303) 231–5385 (voice), 231–5390 (fax)

*Hawaii*

3375 Koapaka Street, Suite H–420  
Honolulu, HI 96819  
(808) 861–8560 (voice), 861–8570 (fax)

*Idaho*

9158 W. Blackeagle Drive  
Boise, ID 83709  
(208) 378–5631 (voice), 378–5637 (fax)

*Montana*

208 N. Montana Avenue, Suite 101  
Helena, MT 59601–3837  
(406) 449–5407 (voice), 449–5439 (fax)

*New Mexico*

6200 Jefferson Street, NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87109  
(505) 761–3160 (voice), 761–3176 (fax)

*Oregon*

530 Center Street, NE, Suite 335  
Salem, OR 97301  
(503) 399-5871 (voice), 399-5607 (fax)

*Utah*

176 North 2200 West, Suite 230  
Airport Park, Building #4  
Salt Lake City, UT 84116  
(801) 524-5010 (voice), 524-6898 (fax)

*Washington and Alaska*

2604 12th Court, S.W., Suite B  
Olympia, WA 98502  
(360) 753-9430 (voice), 753-9585 (fax)

*Wyoming*

2617 East Lincolnway, Suite C  
Cheyene, WY 82001-5662  
(307) 772-2186 (voice), 772-2592 (fax)

**VS' National Center for Import/Export**

Finally, aquaculture farmers and exporters may contact VS' National Center for Import/Export at (301) 734-8364 (voice) or 734-6402 (facsimile) for help with the importation requirements of most foreign countries.